(b) if so, total value of import made in the country under textile industry during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and in the first a months of the current year 2001-2002; and

(c) whether amount of import is less in comparison to the export made in the country by the textile industry during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Exim Policy 2001-02, Government have removed Quantitative Restriction on imports of all the textile items.

(b) and (c) The value of textile imports in the country and textile exports from the country during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and April-October, 2001-2002 are given below.—

Period		Value in US$ million	
		Exports	Imports
1999-2000		10508.6	1161.0
2000-2001		12097.6	1213.2
April-	2001-2002	6132.41	239.3

Enforcing quota system on textile import

*739. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many countries in the world which are members of WTO also a restriction has been imposed by enforcing quota system on textile import;

(b) if so, the names of these countries and whether Government have taken any action to and this quota system; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c)Till December 31,1994, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries *(e.g.* US; member countries of EU;

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Canada) had been governed by bilataral textile agreements entered into between India and these countries under the aegis of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), outside the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With effect from January 1, 1995, the quantitative restrictions (import quotas) in the bilateral agreements under MFA, are being governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. Presently, our textiles and clothing items face restraints in USA, European Union and Canada. Quotas by themselves are trade restrictive.

As per ATC, the textiles quotas would be phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO by 1st January, 2005. The Government has been raising the issues of meaningful integration including enhanced quota, under WTO Agreement on Textile and Clothing at various fora.

Non-availability of raw material to hand loom sector

740. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the handloom sector the largest generator of non-farm rural employment is facing severe crisis due to non-availability of raw material, credit and marketing network;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to make available the required raw material and increased access to credit the percentage of the credit extended to the sector by public sector banks of the credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any crisis in the handloom sector due to non-availability of raw material. All types of raw materials are freely available in the market. To ensure the availability of yam, Government of India is strictly implementing the hank yam packing notification issued under the Textile (Development & Regulation) Order. Further, to ensure the availability of yam, the Government of India is implementing a scheme, *viz.* Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under the scheme all types of yam required by the handloom sector as per their choice are being supplied to the Handloom organisations at their godown at the price at which it is available at the Mill Gate/ Manufacturing Units.